

## **Abstract**

The invention discloses that members of a subfamily of receptor tyrosine kinases comprising TYRO3, Axl, cMer and ligands thereof, such as GAS6 are suitable targets for the development of new therapeutics to treat, prevent or ameliorate OA. The invention also relates to methods to treat and/or ameliorate OA and pharmaceutical compositions therefore comprising modulators with inhibitory effect on the expression or activity of members of this subfamily of receptor tyrosine and related ligands. The invention also relates to a method to identify compounds with therapeutic usefulness to treat OA, comprising identifying compounds that can, e.g., inhibit activity and/or expression of these polypeptides.